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TO Chief of Station, Germany

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MICROFILM

SUBJECT Article on General Reinhard GEHLEN

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

REF: OFFT-12950, 17 April 67 □

E/GIR CE/MAB

1. The French left-wing weekly <u>Le Nouvel Observateur</u> in its issue No. 126 of 12-18 April 1967 carried an article on General Reinhard GEHLEN entitled "L'Espion qui Vient de Loin". The article makes much of American support of General GEHLEN and of the fact that the management of his organisation remains Nazi at heart.

2. On 24 April — I, a sensitive contact of — I, stated that the author of this article, who signed himself Gerard Sandoz. was in reality a member of Agence France Presse on duty in Germany. — I did not want to provide the actual name but he wanted to make the point that he found it very odd that a member of a French government-supported news agency should be allowed to write against an organization with which the French Services maintain official liaison. (Comment: Although it is usually taken for granted that AFP is controlled by the French government, the situation is a little more complex than that. Dating from a statute of 1957, AFP is administered by a council on which sit representatives of the government, the newspapers; the journalistic organizations, and the French Office of Radio and Television — ORTF. However, it is generally estimated that two-thirds of the budget of AFP comes from the government.)

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